

A NEW RECORD OF THE DEVIL'S CIGAR, *CHORIOACTIS*  
*GEASTER* (PEZIZALES: ASCOMYCOTA), FROM  
COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS

John E. Ubelaker

Department of Biological Sciences  
Southern Methodist University  
Dallas, Texas 75275, U.S.A.

Jane K. Starks

3321 Rankin  
Dallas, Texas 75205, U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

A first report of a rare operculate discomycete, the devil's cigar, *Chorioactis geaster*, from near McKinney, Collin County, Texas.

RESUMEN

Ha sido confirmada ahora una población del devil's cigar, de *Chorioactis geaster*, un discomicete operculado raro, y se han tomado testigos en Collin County, Texas.

*Chorioactis geaster* (Sarcosomataceae) was first reported from Austin, Texas in 1893 by Charles Peck as *Urnula geaster* based on specimens collected November 24, 1891 and received from L.M. Underwood (Report of the State Botanist, page 39 (or 119 for the inserted report), in the 46 Annual Report of the New York State Museum, 1893). Later, (Report of the State Botanist, NY State Museum Report #62, 1908, page 31) Peck presents further discussion based on additional specimens from Texas. Kupfer (1902:142) placed it in the genus *Chorioactis*, also see Eckblad (1968). Although Imazeki (1938) reported it from Kyushu, Japan, Petterson et al. (2004) suggests the fungi from Japan and Texas represent two separate lineages that diverged at least 19 MYA. In Texas the fungus has been found in Austin (Travis Co.) by Peck and Seaver (1939) Rudy (2001), Dallas Co., near Joe Pool Lake by Rudy and Keller (1996), Ruby (2001), Guadalupe Co. by Mims (2004 on website), Denton Co. by Buller (1934), reported as uncertain by Rudy (2001), Tarrant Co., by Rudy and Keller (1996), Rudy (2001), and Hunt Co., by Rudy and Keller (1996), Rudy (2001). Rudy (2001) also lists Burnet or possibly Llano, and Palo Pinto counties.

In November, 2004 one of us (JS) collected a specimen in a pasture located near Altoga, Texas, in Collin Co., Texas. The specimen was found growing in moist soil 700 yards west of farm road 470, 0.8 miles west of its junction with FR 1827, west of Altoga, Collin Co., Texas. The pasture was a large open field on the east side of Sistergrove Creek within the flood plain in an open area with clumps of *Rumex crispus* L. The pasture had been maintained as pasture for over 30 years. There was no evidence of tree stumps, or shrubs in the area.

Voucher specimen. **U.S.A TEXAS. Collin Co.:** in tall growth pasture in moist soil of a flood plain ca. 200 yards E. of Sistergrove Creek, 700 yards from farm road 470, 0.8 mi W of jct. with FR 1827, W of Altoga, 20 Nov 2004 (BRIT).

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to Barney Lipscomb and David Lewis for their help in identification of the specimen. Ellen Bloch kindly located a voucher specimen of *Chorioactis geaster* (Peck) Eckblad, Texas, Tarrant Co, City of Arlington, River Legacy Parks by K.C. Rudy s. n., H.W. Keller 8 October, 1994 in the Cryptogamic Herbarium, New York Botanical Garden. John Haines kindly located the type specimen in the New York State Museum. Donald H. Pfister (FH) and David Lewis contributed many useful comments.

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